

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
March 7, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in the Auditorium at the Montrose Early Childhood Center, 356 Clark Street, South Orange, New Jersey, on March 7, 2017.

Board President Elizabeth Baker called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Adequate written notice of this meeting of the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education was sent to the Township and Village Clerks, the Libraries, The Star Ledger, the News Record and all schools.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Present: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright

Absent: none

9 VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Ramos made a special statement regarding intolerance and plans to work with the community to address this matter.

Ms. Baker thanked Dr. Ramos, Mr. Roth and Mr. Sabin for their hard work in developing the 2017-2018 Budget.

DISCUSSION

2017-18 Preliminary Budget - Mr. Roth

Dr. Ramos introduced the budget discussion by reading the South Orange and Maplewood Mission Statement and speaking briefly about the challenges in developing the 2017-18 preliminary budget.

Mr. Roth presented a Powerpoint presentation that included the following information:

- Revenue Sources
- Tax Levy Cap adjustments and Banked Cap
- Estimated Tax Impact
- Enrollment Trends
- Budget Considerations
- Additions/reductions
- Next Steps
- Tentative Budget Calendar

[presentation is on file in Board Secretary's office and on district website]

Presentation was followed by discussion among Board members including the following comments and questions:

- Theme throughout the budget is safety of students and protecting classroom and instructional programs from cuts.
- Schools in Essex County are underfunded
- 17-18 Budget very transparent in comparison to prior years.
- Request to recalibrate 5 year outlook chart
- What does long term revenue plan look like?
- How do we allocate funds to best serve students?
- Source of funding for Custodial Supervisor position?
- Concerns regarding removal of world languages
- Concerns regarding lower amounts of revenue from Montrose Early Childhood Center than expected.
- Need to increase revenues including an increase in grant applications.
- Assumption that we will encounter the same budgeting challenges when developing future budgets.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NAME

TOPIC

Mike Donahue
Chairman SEPAC

On behalf of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEPAC), thank you to Dr. Ramos, Mr. Leiberman and a Special thanks to Mr. Roth for answering questions, allowing community input and helping SEPAC to understand the budget. The 2017-18 budget is the most transparent budget since SEPAC was created.

Rachel Fisher
Co-President Seth Boyden PTA

Thanked the Board for their hard work and for protecting our most vulnerable students. Spoke about equity in private funding and offered assistance with grant applications.

FUTURE MEETINGS - *Read by Ms. Baker*

The Board of Education will hold a Community Forum on Budget at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2017, in Montrose Early Childhood Center Auditorium, 356 Clark Street, South Orange, NJ to discuss the 2017-2018 preliminary budget. No action will be taken.

The Board of Education will hold a Special Budget meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 18, 2017, in Montrose Early Childhood Center Auditorium,

356 Clark Street, South Orange, NJ to discuss the 2017-18 preliminary budget. Action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6:30pm in the Montrose Early Childhood Center Faculty Lounge to discuss personnel and legal issues, negotiations and other matters to be announced at a later date. Immediately following the Closed Session, the Board of Education will meet in Public Session at 7:30pm in the Montrose Early Childhood Center Auditorium, 356 Clark Street, South Orange, NJ. Action will be taken.

MOTION made by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mr. Sabin, that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 9:30 p.m.

Paul Roth, Board Secretary